

A Veterans Day Message from County Executive Isiah Leggett

On the 11^{th} hour of the 11^{th} month – in 1918 – the guns of what was then called The Great World War fell silent in Europe.

What was once celebrated as Armistice Day is now Veterans Day. The name has changed. The sentiment remains the same.

On this November 11, Americans everywhere pause to remember all those soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, Coast Guard members and others who have served in our armed forces. We honor those who risked their lives and, in some cases, lost their lives defending this country. We honor the families that stood with them and supported them and, in some cases, survived them.

Because of their service, America won its independence and because of their service we have successfully defended our freedoms and liberties over the past 233 years.

November 11 is the day that all Montgomery County residents should proudly display the American flag in recognition of our heroes.

November 11 is the day you should especially take the time to "Thank a Veteran" for his or her service.

Take it from one who served in Vietnam, veterans have all too often been taken for granted and not given the full recognition they so richly deserve. As a County, as a nation, we should never let that happen again.

November 11 is also the day when we should recognize those who currently serve on active duty – and the families they've left behind. May those standing up for our values in distant lands come back safe and sound to this County as soon as possible.

As a tribute to all those who have fallen in service to our country – and at the recommendation of our County Veterans Commission— I will rename the Rockville Library as the "Rockville Memorial Library." We will establish a collection of veterans' materials there that will be available to all County residents.

May God extend his blessings to all our veterans and their families on this special day and throughout the year. This County owes to its veterans a debt it can never really repay – and we should never forget that.

Sincerely,

Ike Leggett County Executive